

August 13, 2013

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on August 13, 2013 at 9:35 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Craft, Kimmel-Dagostino, G. Davis, Kraemer, Robelotto, Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Drew Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

Among the things you can give and still keep are your word, a smile, and a grateful heart.
Zig Ziglar

You don't get paid for the hour. You get paid for the value you bring to the hour.
Jim Rohn

*Community is not possible without forgiveness, the cement of community life.
Forgiveness changes the way we remember. It converts the curse into a blessing*
Henri Nouwen

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner G. Davis moved and Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of August 13, 2013. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson K. Davis noted that she had provided the inspirational for the July meeting, not Former Commissioner Griffith.

MOTION: Commissioner G. Davis moved and Commissioner Robelotto seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of July 9, 2013, as amended. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dr. Jennifer Stahl, DPT

Drew Davis, Davis In-Home Care, Inc.

Commissioner Griffith, Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA)

7. PRESENTATION- “The Village Movement and Westchester Playa Village”

Chairperson K. Davis stated that as Carol Kitabayashi was not yet present, the Commission would move on to Senior Citizens Concerns, and return to the presentation when Ms. Kitabayashi arrived.

8. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Council had selected a new Council member and noted that there might be an additional opening for a Council Member in November.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that Toni and David Sargent had been awarded the Jared Sidney Torrance award.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the Madrona Marsh was closed due to the possible presence of West Nile virus.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino had spoken at a Council meeting and asked for information on the current plan for the building that Focal Point occupied.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the Police Department had a video on their website at SaveandSecureTorrance.com, which gave information on the possible impact of AB109 on the community and ways that citizens could help ensure the safety of the City.

Former Commissioner Griffith stated her concerns that the redevelopment of the Del Amo Mall needed to include more handicapped parking and protected pedestrian walkways.

There was a discussion on the best way to deliver the concerns to the developer. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would contact Carolyn Chun in the Planning Department.

B. Housing

Commissioner G. Davis stated that she had spoken to Gardena Senior Citizens Bureau Manager Kathy Walker to gather information about their program and to evaluate whether the Commission could network with the Gardena program. She noted that the Gardena program provided participants in Meals on Wheels with a follow up visiting service to allow more social time for the participants.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that she had met with Congresswoman Maxine Waters and discussed the possible effects of the government sequester on block grants, HUD funding and other federal money.

7. PRESENTATION- “The Village Movement and Westchester Playa Village” (continued)

Executive Director Kitabayashi presented information on Westchester Playa Village (WPV) and explained that the program was part of the “village movement” of local groups formed to assist seniors to remain active and independent in their own homes. She noted that there were now over a 100 villages across the country, but that each village was independently operated.

She explained that the WPV was a volunteer driven, non-profit organization that provided transportation for shopping and medical appointments, general help around the home,

social activities and training classes. She noted that the WPV was not licensed, nor did it have a physical location.

Executive Director Kitabayashi reported that the membership dues for the WPV were \$500 for an individual or \$1000 for a household and stated that the average age of the members was 64 to 70. She explained that the fees were not enough to allow the program to be self-sustaining and that the WPV received donations and used grants to supplement the income from the fees.

In response to a question from Commissioner Robelotto, Executive Director Kitabayashi explained that WPV advertised for members through senior and other community groups and senior publications. She stated that the minimum age was 55 and that there was no income limits or requirements.

Responding to a question from Commissioner G. Davis, Executive Director Kitabayashi stated that all the transportation was provided by volunteers using their own vehicles and gas. She added that the WPV also had a donated vehicle which was available to use.

Executive Director Kitabayashi noted that the membership fee was yearly flat rate fee and at this time there were no additional charges or a maximum number of times that a member could use the services.

Executive Director Kitabayashi added that WPV would prescreen service providers and could then negotiate a reduced member rate for the provider services.

In response to a question from Commissioner G. Davis, Executive Director Kitabayashi stated that the volunteer drivers were screened through background checks and DMV records and were required to sign an agreement. She noted that WPV currently had 90 volunteers and 54 members and that their goal was to have 65 members by year end and over 100 members by next year.

In response to a question from Former Commissioner Griffith, Executive Director Kitabayashi stated that the volunteers could work with members who had a disability or who used a wheelchair, as long as the member could move to and from the vehicle and the wheelchair, as the volunteers did not have a vehicle with a wheel chair lift.

Commissioner Virobik suggested using WISE and Healthy Aging in Santa Monica as a resource and noted that volunteers and members could be sought through service clubs, schools and churches.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino suggested using the Chamber of Commerce as a resource.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Virobik, Executive Director Kitabayashi stated that the volunteer drivers were covered by their own personal insurance.

Executive Director Kitabayashi stated that the WPV had started with 12 members and 12 volunteers and noted that it was best if the number of members grew in tandem with the number of volunteers, with the ideal ratio of twice as many volunteers as members. She added that each group would have their own specific needs and would have to recruit volunteers to cover those needs.

Executive Director Kitabayashi distributed brochures and stated that the WPV website was www.theWPV.org

B. Housing (continued)

Commissioner Viribik reported on California's first Green House Project, Evergreen Villas, in Claremont which offered a new type of nursing home care; a small home approach, with a person-centered care, communal dining and an open, flowing floor plan.

C. Health

Chairperson K. Davis presented information on an article on the side effects of statins and an article on the benefits of eating fatty fish.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the Transit Department had received a grant for \$115,470.

E. Community Programs

Commissioner Griffith (LACCOA) reported that the County Commissioners were visiting nutrition sites to evaluate the sites and select those that would be awarded a plaque.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that the Senior Fair and the Viva Monte Carlo Birthday Bash at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center had been successful events.

Chairperson K. Davis reported that the Torrance Woman's Club had participated in Operation Teddy Bear.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the months of:

May 2013

Total number of documented calls: 35	Total number of callbacks: 10
Miscellaneous calls: 40	Total number of walk-ins: 12
Total number of calls received: 75	

Of the documented calls:

26% were for transportation	34% were for housing
11% were for in home services	

July 2013

Total number of documented calls: 35	Total number of callbacks: 17
Miscellaneous calls: 68	Total number of walk-ins: 20
Total number of calls received: 103	

Of the documented calls:

20% were for transportation	63% were for housing
11.4% were for legal services	

Commissioner Virobik noted that the Focal Point office was still having a problem with the doorbell.

Commissioner Virobik stated that Focal Point was in need of two volunteers for Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Thursday from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. She added that Chairperson K. Davis would be volunteering on Mondays.

Commissioner Virobik reported that two volunteers had attended the Annual Senior briefing sponsored by Congresswoman Janice Hahn, which included updates on affordable health care for seniors at both the state and local level.

Commissioner Virobik noted that the Focal Point Directory was printed and volunteers were distributing the directories to churches, apartment complexes and senior centers.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

There was a discussion on phone scams and vacation home checks by the police department.

9. SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

Commissioner Robelotto stated that the discussion for the outreach program had occurred under the presentation in Item 7.

10. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT

Chairperson K. Davis stated that she had made the changes to the Annual Report as requested at the last meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Robelotto moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to approve the Annual Report of the Commission on Aging for the period of July 2012 through June 2013. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

11. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

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Approved as submitted September 9, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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